

the ground. There probably was an occasional leaky tank, but all those we have seen so far are in excellent condition.

In any case, they are forcing those tanks out of the ground. We advocate cleaning, sand-blasting, and painting them and putting them right back into the ground as inexpensive blast and radiation shelters for the American people. So many have been removed, that the salvage price in Oregon and California for these tanks has fallen now to zero.

Usually one must pay the cost of hauling them away, but one Oregon civil defense group is now getting a continual supply of tanks delivered to their steel-fabrication shop free. For a nominal charge their supplier also purges the tanks and cuts the two entryway holes.

If you want a tank, check your local market and get one while they are still cheap. After the deadline for replacement of the tanks, the supply will dry up.

In general you need to arrange to get them just as they are dug up from the fuel station. If they are hauled away by someone else, then the costs of hauling twice add to the price. Also, if they are hauled away, most of them are then cut up for steel scrap.

Service station tanks are bedded in sand and usually placed under paving which keeps them quite dry. If the area does not have an unusually high water table or the tank has not been abandoned for many years with water inside it, it is likely to be in essentially new condition even if it is quite old.

EMERGENCY POWER

It is natural to want to take as much modern technology as possible into a post-attack environment. Technology can save many lives, and it can improve the quality of life. Most of our technology requires electricity.

In those countries with good civil defense systems, emergency power generation is a part of the system. Emergency civil defense power is provided in Switzerland, China, and the Soviet Union. Diesel generators, for example, supply power for Swiss emergency hospitals.

While diesel power is a reasonable way to provide large quantities of electricity for shelter installations, it is not nearly so important as food for your community. We stress that you cannot become much safer than your neighbors. If they starve to death, your family will probably starve, too. The cost of a power generation system competes with that of a food reserve which is far more important.